November 20, 2015

ICARC NEWSLETTER

Officers for 2015:
President - Craig Bigler AB3XA
Vice President - Doug Fitzsimmons K3LAB
Treasurer - Terry Carnahan KB3JOD
Secretary - Larry Freeman N3LT

Additional Board Members for 2015:
(Officers are automatically board members)
1. Dave Dzelsky N3DZ
2. Carl Hvozda N3PIE
3. Jerry Kiehl WB3DUD
4. Phil Kopczyk K3PJ
5. Elmer Sorisio KB3WG

Note: the newsletter is a tad early since our next meeting is on December 1, 2015!

LOCAL HAPPENINGS:
The November 3 meeting of ICARC went smoothly with discussion of various items of interest to the club: Craig is stepping down from the Presidency and Larry is stepping down from the Secretariat. Doug Fitzsimmons was nominated for president, Ernie Clark for Vice President. No nominations were made for Secretary or board members. The elections are to be held at the December meeting.

The Ham Radio Class for the Introductory License for 2015 is now history and we have seven NEW hams. Congratulations!! Maybe our next class should be an upgrade class sometimes in the Spring or Summer. Think about it.

As a result of the session we have a potential for seven new gratis members of ICARC. For other members, remember that Dues are due at the December meeting or within a month thereafter.

The Mars event at the 911 center went fairly well on November 7. Doug was able to check into the hf net and present the necessary status reports. The loop antenna worked well. However, there was a problem with the session involving the digital report. Terry could not get FLDIGI to function properly. I have gotten no reports on the other days but I suspect the bugs are now worked out.

The veterans day parade (Nov. 11) communication went smoothly. There was some misty rain at times and it was pleasantly cool but other than that there were no problems with the communications.

We had a productive cleanup session at the repeater site on Saturday, November 14. Thanks to Craig Bigler, Joe Rankin, Alton Strong, Ernie Clark, Elmer Sorisio, Dave Dzelsky, Lauren MacMullen, and Larry Freeman a lot of work got done. Several small trees were taken out around the guy wires and most of the limbs growing through the guys were removed. Alton, Ernie, and Craig did some needed mowing. The edge of the woods to the south of the shack was cleared so we now have a bit more space for setting up tents and antennas. We still need to remove a large limb hanging over one of the guy wires. It was too high to get to and the tree is too large to cut down at this time. Also, the large pile of wood under the eastern most guy needs to be moved and burned. Athough, no leaks are evident, it may be time to re-cover the roof on the repeater Shack. Obviously, there is still much to do!

UPCOMING EVENTS:
On Tuesday, December 1, 2015 ICARC meets in the back room of Indiana Eat n' Park restaurant. The board meeting starts at 7:00 pm and the general meeting begins at 7:30 pm. Please try to attend because this is the meeting at which officers and board members are to be elected.

On Wednesday, November 11, 2015 ICARC members will be providing the communications along Philadelphia Street in Indiana for the annual Veteran's Day parade.

On December, 19 2015 ICARC will hold its annual Christmas and fundraiser dinner at Hoss' restaurant in Indiana, PA. The dinner event is at 6:00 pm but the fundraiser is all day long. Although we would love to see you at the dinner, you may eat at

anytime during the day, just remember to provide the fundraiser card to your server so that ICARC will get credit.

INTERESTING TIDBITS IN RADIO NEWS:

Repeat: New ham radio satellite launched on October 8, 2015: The FOX-1A (AO 85) is a small CubeSat developed by AMSAT. The satellite carries a basic cross-band analog FM repeater with an uplink frequency of 435.180 MHz, and a downlink frequency of 145.980 MHz. When fully operational it will allow ground stations using a handheld FM transceiver with a simple dual band antenna to make contacts. It is currently in the testing and check-out phase and has already be heard by many hams all over the world. For more information check the following website: http://www.eham.net/articles/35475

Repeat: From CQ we learn that the ARRL is increasing its annual dues by $10. This will make the dues $49 and take effect at the beginning of 2016. Also, an FCC decision now elevates the Amateur radio service from being a secondary to being the primary service across the 160 m band. The upper part of the band 1900-2000 kHz had been the primary domain of the radio-location service but has not been used for that purpose for years. In addition the frequency range has been authorized for the use on offshore buoys used by commercial fisherman. The latter has been going on, illegally, for many years with no significant complants to the FCC therefore they decided to make it legal rather than force the fishermen to install new buoys. These changes were put into effect on August 6, 2015. **CQ Reports that the ARRL Board of Directors Adopts a New HF Band Plan change for 75/80 meters** at their July meeting. The ARRL will petition the FCC to reduce the phone portion of the band by 50 kHz and add 50 kHz to the CW/RTTY/DATA segment of the band. It will also seek to get RTTY and data priviledges on the band for Novices and Technicians. The 3600-3650 kHz segment, currently restricted to Extra Class phone, will be open to all for CW, RTTY, and data under the proposal. The petition will also seek RTTY/data priviledges for Novice and Technicians on 15 meters. There are a few other issues in the petition related to frequencies for automatically controlled data stations. **FCC Field Office closures**: Radio World reports that the FCC field office closures will include:Anchorage, Buffalo, Detroit, Houston, Kansas City, Norfolk, Philadelphia, San Diego, San Juan, Seattle, and Tampa. Operations will continue in Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Columbia (MD), Dallas, Denver. Honolulu, Los Angeles, Miami, New Orleans, New York, Portland (OR), and San Francisco. In addition, there will be two Enforcement Bureau, rapid-response teams that work from the Denver, and Columbia offices. All field agents will now be required to be electrical engineers. **(The author comments about this latter requirement: This seems, in my opinion, to be a foolish requirement in that you really need experienced, practical folks working in the field and excluding some of the older, more experienced field agents based upon their formal education seems to me to be a serious mistake.) On the enforcement side of radio things,** CQ reports that the FCC has proposed a $22,000 fine against Michael Guarnsey, KZ8O, of Parchment, Michigan for repeated interference with other amateurs and failing to identify. Apparently, the infractions go back more than a decade and he ignored repeated written warnings. Additionally, the FCC proposed fining David Telassi, W4BHV, of Ringgold, Georgia, $1,000 for, repeatedly, failing to identify. There is bound to be a moral to this but just remember to treat others with respect and courteousness or as you would like to be treated over the air. **On the bright side**, CQ reports that, fifteen year old, Anna Veal, W0ANT, of Littleton, Colorado has been named both, the Newsline Young Ham of the Year and the ARRL's Hiram Percy Maxim awards recipient for 2015. Both of her parents are hams and she was first licensed at age 8 years. She currently holds a General Class license. **So for all you young folks out there, you don't have to be an old crumudgeon to enjoy the benefits of amateur radio!**

Other Stuff:

Hey Folks, please send in some interesting tidbits or write an article!!!

OTHER INFORMATION

(If anyone would like to include information or write an article for the Newsletter please let the ICARC Secretary know by email at: wd4hoz@gmail.com) The only caveats are: The editor reserves the right to alter the format for publication purposes. The content may also be modified contingent upon accuracy and appropriateness of the contained material. The latter would, of course, be subject to the approval of the author.

Walter Dzelsky-W3NFY a founding member of ICARC, is currently in Scenery Hill Manor nursing home under Hospice Care. Our best wishes and prayers go with him.

Rusty O'Donnell-WB3EUQ – contact information:

Rusty is at the Hollidaysburg Veterans Home, a Pennsylvania state facility just south of Altoona. Please note that he is not in the Altoona VA Hospital. He is in Eisenhower Hall and it's nursing care. The phone number for his room is (814) 695-1635. You may call at anytime. He does have a cell phone. For his cell phone (724) 388-1202.

Rusty's mailing address is :

David O'Donnell *(David is his actual name)*
P.O. Box 319
Hollidaysburg, PA 16648

If you go to see Rusty: When you get to Eisenhower Hall (the large building with the WWII tank in front of it, as you first come onto the grounds) You will need to sign in at the Security desk – they will direct you to his unit, North 2. The security guards have room charts and know the residents.

Minutes of the November 3, 2015 ICARC Meeting

Attendees:

Bigler-AB3XA, President	Fred Maize-KM3M	Bill McMillen-N3QM
Jerry Kiehl-WB3DUD	Dave Dzelsky-N3DZ	Bill Wieserman-K3ZYK
Dave Steiner-KA3KFA	Phil Kopczyk-K3PJ	Elmer Sorisio-KB3WG
Larry Freeman-N3LT, Secretary	Terry Carnahan-KB3JOD, Treasurer	Alton Strong-N3PHL
Doug Fitzsimmons-K3LAB, V. Pres.	Ernest Clark	Lauren MacMullen
	Joe Rankin-KC3CDG	Al Fister-N3ZFZ

Guests: David Kopczyk (WB3TAU)

Call to Order: Craig Bigler (AB3XA)
The "Board" meeting started at about 7:00 PM. The time was also used to set up audio equipment.

Craig Bigler called the general meeting to order at 7:32 pm.

Acceptance of October 6 meeting minutes.
There was some discussion of minor errors to be corrected. Fred Maize (KM3M) made the motion to accept the minutes and Joe Rankin seconded. The Motion was voted upon and carried with one nay vote.

Acceptance of the Financial Report

Terry, Treasurer, presented a detailed financial report.

Larry Freeman made a motion to accept the report and Dave Dzelsky seconded. The motion was voted upon and carried with two nay votes

License class report and recognition of new hams:

There are now seven brand new hams in our community. We welcome two of them: Mr. Ernest Clark and Ms Lauren MacMullen to our meeting tonight. Ernie is already a regular and Ms MacMullen is visiting us for the first time. Congratulations are offered to the new hams and thanks for a job well done in the class by the students, instructors and volunteer examiners.

Repeater Update: Elmer Sorisio (KB3WG)

Repeater Seems to be working well. The clicking noise is still there. Dave Dzelsky pointed out a Yaesu forum that offers suggestion and circuits using different chips for various sensors. Someone else mentioned that there may be another background noise coming into play.

ARES and Monday Night Net Update: Dave Steiner (KA3KFA)

Dave Steiner reported that there are 37 on the roster and an average of about 16 check-ins. Doug Fitzsimmons volunteered to take net control for the month of December.

ACS and Monday Night NBEMS Update: Terry Carnahan (KB3JOD)
Terry reported that the station at the 911 center has been upgraded with a voice chip and an LDG automatic tuner. The loop can now be used over the full range of frequencies. The Amateur Radio Operators participation in the Army MARS Exercis scheduled from 7:00 am, 11/7/15 through 6:00pm 11/10/15 was discussed. Doug Fitzsimmons indicated that this has been approved by EMA management and that the facility will be available. Doug suggests reports be made at 1300 and 1400 hours on Saturday, Nov. 7 from the 911 center on hf. Terry Carnahan, Doug Fitzsimmons, Fred Maize, and Larry Freeman will be there.

PA QSO report: This was held at Dave Steiner's home under the pavillion with an addition tent setup near Dave's tower. There were 115 contacts including one DX from the Canary Islands. The logs have been turned in and the automated message received. No kickbacks yet. Fred said no results have yet been published.

JOTA (Jamboree on the air): This was held at Dave Steiner's home under the pavillion. Eight scouts showed and all got contacts including Four or Five JOTA stations. Doug Fitzsimmons reported that he helped one scout complete the information for a merit badge. Thanks to all who participated especially the Steiners for providing the location and plenty of food and drink. Thanks to the Scouts and their leaders for showing up for the event. Also thanks to K3VAR for showing up and demonstrating some cw communications for the scouts.

The Veteran's Day communications test scheduled for Sunday October, 18, 2015 showed that there should be no problems performing simplex communications between the Courthouse and 4th street. Al Fister presented the needs and a brief description of the parade. He indicates that there will need to be at least two radio operators, one with the Vice Commander in a fixed location near the cannon and one with the lead person of the parade which starts between 4th and 5th streets. When the first cannon shot is fired the parade commences and will stop at the Courtnouse for the National Anthem and words from the County Commisioners. There will be another cannon salvo of two shots. The parade will continue to 9th street and disperse. There were four Volunteers from ICARC to operate the communications. Fred Maize, Dave Steiner, Doug Fitzsimmons, and Larry Freeman. It was decided not to wear the ICARC emergency vests since that was no county official of authority designated to handle any emergencies that may come up. Fred Maize suggested that the four volunteers meet at 10:15 AM near the cannon which will be located on N. 8th street.

Nomination of Officers

Craig Bigler announced that he would be stepping down as president after this term. Larry Freeman announced that he would be stepping down as Secretary after this term.

Craig Bigler nominated Doug Fitzsimmons for the office of President. Larry Freeman nominated Ernest Clark for Vice President.

Terry Carnahan said that he would stand for the Treasurers office.

No nomination was made for Secretary. The Board of Directors was not discussed.

Clean up of Repeater site schedule/list of volunteers. Scheduled for Nov. 14, 2015 from 10:00 am -?? Volunteers: Elmer Sorisio, Larry Freeman, Ernie Clark, Craig Bigler, Terry Carnahan, Joe Rankin, Dave Dzelsky and Lauren MacMullen

Discussion/Motion to remove minutes from website.\

It was decided to leave as is.

Other discussion: There was some discussion of the ICARC FACEBOOK page.

Good of the Order

Craig Bigler called for a motion to adjourn.
Joe Rankin made a motion and Alton Strong seconded and the meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm.

A total of $31.00 was donated tonight.

The program following the meeting was about Ham Mesh Networking using standard 2.4 Ghz routers. Phil Kopczyk, David Kopczyk and Bill Wieserman.

Respectfully submitted by the Secretary, Larry Freeman (N3LT)